

**Listing of Claims:**

1-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously presented). A space-maintainer for inserting between two vertebral bodies, said space maintainer comprising:

a sleeve-shaped first part having a longitudinal axis;

a second part guided therein, the second part being displaceable in an axial direction relative to the first part;

a device connecting the sleeve-shaped first part and the second part, the device comprising a first component having a toothed profile extending parallel to the longitudinal axis and a second component having a toothed wheel located for engagement with the toothed profile of the first component,

wherein the first component is attached to one of the sleeve-shaped first part or second part and the second component is attached to the other of the sleeve-shaped first part or second part so that a rotary movement of the toothed wheel is converted into a movement displacing the second part relative to the sleeve-shaped first part in the axial direction for adjusting a total length of the sleeve-shaped first part and the second part.

6. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 5, wherein the toothed wheel is mounted in the sleeve-shaped first part.

7. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 5, wherein the second part further comprises an outer surface and a grid section, extending in the axial direction, the grid section comprising a grid structure consisting of a plurality of indentations arranged adjacent to one another in the axial direction on said outer surface facing the first part; and

the space-maintainer further comprises a stopping part that cooperates with the grid structure.

8. (Previously presented). The space maintainer according to Claim 5, further comprising a rotary instrument, which can engage the toothed wheel for changing a rotary position of the toothed wheel and, therefore, the total length of the sleeve-shaped first part and the second part.

9. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 8, wherein the second part further comprises an outer surface and a grid section, extending in the axial direction, the grid section comprising a grid structure consisting of a plurality of indentations arranged adjacent to one another in the axial direction on said outer surface facing the first part; and

the space-maintainer further comprises a stopping part that cooperates with the grid structure.--

10. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 8, wherein the toothed wheel is mounted in the sleeve-shaped first part.

11. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 10, wherein the second part further comprises an outer surface and a grid section, extending in the axial direction, the grid section comprising a grid structure consisting of a plurality of indentations arranged adjacent to one another in the axial direction on said outer surface facing the first part; and

the space-maintainer further comprises a stopping part that cooperates with the grid structure.